



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,575	08/21/2003	Winnie C. Wu	MSFT-2733/305587.01	9794

41505 7590 06/14/2005

WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
ONE LIBERTY PLACE - 46TH FLOOR
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER .

ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2165

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/646,575

Applicant(s)

WU ET AL.

Examiner

Neveen Abel-Jalil

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINE

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. The amendment filed on April 11, 2005 has been received and entered. Claims 1-16 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Call (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0143521 A1) in view of Vincent, III (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0268240 A1).

As to claims 1, 8, and 13, Call discloses a storage platform comprising:

a data store in which data stored therein is defined in terms of items, elements, and relationships, wherein an item is a unit of data storable in the data store and comprises one or more elements, an element is an instance of a type comprising one or more fields (See Call page 5, paragraph 0065, also see Call page 11, paragraphs 0115-0117, also see Call page 18, paragraph 0275), and

a relationship is a link between at least two items (See Call page 26, column 1, lines 29-37);

a set of schemas that define different types of items, elements, and relationships (See Call page 11, paragraphs 0115-0117); and

an application programming interface comprising a class for each of the different items, elements, and relationships defined in the set of schemas (See Call page 25, paragraphs 0376-0375, also see Call page 5, paragraph 0070).

Call does not teach a customizable subset of schemas that extend the set of schemas and are dependent on the set of schemas.

Vincent, III teaches a customizable subset of schemas that extend the set of schemas and are dependent on the set of schemas (See Vincent, III page 7, paragraphs 0100-0112, and see Vincent, III page 8, paragraph 0115).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Call to include a customizable subset of schemas that extend the set of schemas and are dependent on the set of schemas.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Call by the teaching of Vincent, III to include a customizable subset of schemas that extend the set of schemas and are dependent on the set of schemas because it allows for large scale schema management and consistency (See Vincent, III page 1, paragraphs 0003-0004).

As to claims 2, 9, and 14, Call as modified discloses wherein data may also be stored in the data store in the form of an extension to an existing item type, and wherein the application programming interface comprises a class for each different item extension (See Call page 26,

column 2, lines 1-17).

As to claim 3, Call as modified discloses wherein the class for each type of item, element, and relationship is generated automatically based on the set of schemas that define each type of item, element, and relationship (See Call page 25, paragraph 0374, also see Call pages 11-12, paragraph 0125).

As to claims 6, and 12, Call as modified discloses comprising a database engine on which the data store is implemented, and wherein the different types of items, elements, and relationships in the data store are implemented in the database engine as user-defined types (UDT) (See Call pages 11-12, paragraphs 0125-0128).

As to claim 7, Call as modified discloses wherein the application programming interface provides a query model that enables application programmers to form queries based on various properties of the items in the data store, in a manner that insulates the application programmer from the details of the query language of the database engine (See Call page 11, paragraphs 0120-0124, also see Call page 5, paragraphs 0070-0071).

4. Claims 4-5, 10-11, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Call (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0143521 A1) in view of Vincent, III (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0268240 A1) as applied to claims 1-3, 6-9, and 12-14 above, and further in view of Freyssinet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,564 B1).

As to claims 4, 10, and 15, Call as modified still does not teach wherein the classes for each type of item, element, and relationship define a set of data classes, and wherein the application programming interface further comprises a second set of classes that define a common set of behaviors for the data classes.

Freyssinet et al. teaches wherein the classes for each type of item, element, and relationship define a set of data classes, and wherein the application programming interface further comprises a second set of classes that define a common set of behaviors for the data classes (See Freyssinet et al. column 6, lines 31-46, also see Freyssinet et al. column 5, lines 28-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Call as modified to include the classes for each type of item, element, and relationship define a set of data classes, and wherein the application programming interface further comprises a second set of classes that define a common set of behaviors for the data classes.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have further modified Call as modified by the teaching of Freyssinet et al. to include the classes for each type of item, element, and relationship define a set of data classes, and wherein the application programming interface further comprises a second set of classes that define a common set of behaviors for the data classes because it allows for ease of data integration and assists in decision making process (See Freyssinet et al. column 1, lines 23-40).

As to claims 5, 11, and 16, Call as modified discloses wherein the second set of classes comprise a first class that represents a storage platform scope and that provides the context for queries on the data store and a second class the represents the results of a query on the data store (See Call page 21, paragraphs 0321-0322, also see Freyssinet et al. column 5, lines 20-50).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 571-272-4038. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Neveen Abel-Jalil
May 31, 2005


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER